

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A hERG channel-expressing cell population comprising cells capable of expressing a channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 0.6 nA or more, wherein the proportionratio of said cells is 40% or more relative to the total number of hERG gene-transferred cells within said population.

**Claim 2 (Original):** The cell population according to claim 1, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.

**Claim 3 (Original):** The cell population according to claim 2, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** The cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the average value of the hERG current in the total cell population is 0.3 nA or more.

**Claim 5 (Original):** A cell capable of expressing a hERG channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 1.0 nA or more.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The cell according to claim 5, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.

**Claim 7 (Original):** The cell according to claim 6, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

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Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing the cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 1, the method comprising which comprises expressing hERG channels ~~using~~ via a virus vector.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 8, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

Claim 10 (Canceled): ~~The method according to claim 8, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~claim 8~~ any one of claims 8 to 10, the method further comprising which comprises a step of concentrating the virus vector by ultracentrifugation.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, ~~the method comprising which comprises using the cell population according to any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, the method further comprising which comprises using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, ~~the method comprising which comprises using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to any one of claims 8-9, or to 11~~ claim 8.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 14, the method further comprising which comprises using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method of screening a compound for compounds, or a saltsalts thereof for its hERG current altering effect, that alter or not alter hERG currents, the method comprising which comprises using the cell population according to any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7claim 1.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising which comprises using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of screening a compound for compounds, or a saltsalts thereof for its hERG current altering effect, that alter or not alter hERG currents, the method comprising which comprises using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to any one of claims 8 9, or to 11claim 8.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 18, the method further comprising which comprises using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 20 (New): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.

Claim 21 (New): A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.